

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

CEA Technologies

Colorado Association for Manufacturing and Technology

Visual Workplace Provides Environment of Continuous Improvement at CEA Technologies

Client Profile:

CEA Technologies, established in 1988, provides contract design and manufacturing services for the medical device industry. The company employs 100 people at its facility in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Situation:

CEA management endeavored to grow responsibly to meet increased demands while preparing themselves to weather any dips in business that inevitably occur in the cycle of growth. Steve Wychulis, CEA's Director of Corporate Development, contacted the Colorado Association for Manufacturing and Technology (CAMT), a NIST MEP network affiliate, to ensure growth challenges were met responsibly, while providing the necessary tools for their employees to reach the highest level of efficiency and quality.

Solution:

CAMT implemented a Statistical Process Control course to identify and eliminate variations in the production process and conducted a Value Stream Mapping event to reduce non-value added activities. With CAMT's guidance, the manufacturing facility went through a 12-week Visual Workplace program. As a result of CAMT's assistance, CEA's manufacturing facility was transformed into an effective Visual Workplace to meet daily performance goals, decrease non-value added activities such as wasted time and motion, and sustain reduced lead times and accelerated flow. CEA's large manufacturing facility with multiple controlled environments was rearranged so that all tools and materials were placed at the point of use, and labels, shadow boards, and display boards were developed to create an organized and efficient facility.

Results:

- * Realized \$197,000 in cost savings.
- * Retained sales of \$30,000.
- * Invested \$98,000 in plant equipment.

Testimonial:

Implementing and sustaining Lean with Visual Workplace tools has assisted CEA in not only meeting customer demands, but exceeding their expectations.

Steve Wychulis, Director of Corporate Development